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SUBJECT: SLOVENIA: ANNUAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT 2008

REF: A. STATE 2731

[1](#)B. LJUBLJANA 718

[1](#)1. (U) This message transmits post's contribution to the Department of State's eighth annual report on Trafficking in Persons. Responses below are keyed to questions in paras 27-30 of reftel A. Embassy POC is Political Officer Albert Kraaimoore; tel. 386-1-200-5676, fax 386-1-200-5650. Based on information detailed below, Mission recommends that Slovenia be kept in Tier One this reporting cycle. We have seen a continued focus on anti-TIP activities in Slovenia in the last year, including new prosecutions and convictions, which merits maintaining Slovenia's position in Tier One.

[1](#)2. (U) The GOS is directly and actively working to combat trafficking in close partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), law enforcement, and governments of other countries. This reporting cycle, the GOS has successfully implemented the National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons for 2007, and it has completed work on a two year plan for 2008 - 2009.

[1](#)3. (U) Slovenia has collected data in a more uniform and clearly defined manner for the third year in a row, allowing for a more accurate picture of the TIP problem through statistics in Slovenia. The GOS continues to develop and vigorously pursue investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences of traffickers. This year, five people were convicted of trafficking and related crimes. Public awareness remains an important element of the Government's anti-trafficking work, as does sensitizing potential victims and making legal and social assistance available.

[1](#)4. (U) In 2007, the GOS awarded funding for victim protection was awarded to NGOs Kljuc and Karitas, who received EUR 35,000 and EUR 33,000 respectively for two victim protection contracts. Realizing that cooperative continuity with NGOs is essential for proper care of trafficking victims, the GOS for the first time entered into two-year contracts with NGOs, signaling the continued improvement in GOS-NGO cooperation in trafficking issues. In January 2008, In February 2008, the GOS concluded a two-year contract with Karitas to provide victim assistance and care from 2008 to 2009. A similar two-year contract was concluded with Kljuc in February 2008. Kljuc received a EUR 74,000 contract from the Ministry of Interior to provide safe-house accommodation for trafficking victims. Karitas received a EUR 70,000 contract from the Ministry of Labor to provide short-term housing for victims in immediate need of shelter.

[1](#)5. (U) In 2007, Slovenian NGOs assisted 26 potential trafficking victims. NGO Karitas cared for seven potential victims who required emergency housing and helped an additional seven who were not in need of housing. Karitas helped two of these potential victims to return to their countries of origin (Dominican Republic and China). Eleven of these potential victims were women and three were men.

The NGO Kljuc also assisted five potential victims in need of safe housing, five who did not require housing, and two who were included in Kljuc's reintegration program. Kljuc assisted nine women, one man, two female minors. (NOTE: one minor came of legal age during the assistance, and the other is a child of a female victim. END NOTE.)

CHECKLIST

Overview of a country's activities to eliminate trafficking in

persons:

16. (U) A. Is the country a country of origin, transit, and/or destination for internationally trafficked men, women, or children? Provide, where possible, numbers or estimates for each group; how they were trafficked, to where, and for what purpose. Does the trafficking occur within the country's borders? Does it occur in territory outside of the government's control (e.g. in a civil war situation)? Are any estimates or reliable numbers available as to the extent or magnitude of the problem? What is (are) the source(s) of available information on trafficking in persons or what plans are in place (if any) to undertake documentation of trafficking? How reliable are the numbers and these sources? Are certain groups of persons more at risk of being trafficked (e.g. women and children, boys versus girls, certain ethnic groups, refugees, etc.)?

17. (U) Slovenia is primarily a transit country for internationally trafficked victims. To a lesser extent it is also a destination country and, almost negligibly, a country of origin. Victims were primarily women for sexual exploitation and a few men for forced labor in street-begging schemes. During the reporting period there was one child of a trafficking victim assisted by NGOs, although this child was not exploited personally. No precise estimates regarding the number of victims trafficked is available due to the difficulty of distinguishing between trafficking victims and immigrant smuggling participants transiting Slovenia. Adding to the uncertainty of the number of trafficking victims is the fact that trafficking crimes often go unreported. NGOs speculate that the number of trafficking victims, including those being transited across Slovenia, may number in the low hundreds. Looking at statistics in Slovenia, it appears that women are the group at greatest risk of being trafficked to, from, or through Slovenia.

18. (U) B. Please provide a general overview of the trafficking situation in the country and any changes since the last TIP Report (e.g. changes in direction). (Other items to address may include: What kind of conditions are the victims trafficked into? Which populations are targeted by the traffickers? Who are the traffickers/exploiters? Are they independent business people? Small or family-based crime groups? Large international organized crime syndicates? What methods are used to approach victims? (Are they offered lucrative jobs, sold by their families, approached by friends of friends, etc.?) What methods are used to move the victims (e.g., are false documents being used?). Are employment, travel, and tourism agencies or marriage brokers involved with or fronting for traffickers or crime groups to traffic individuals?

19. (U) Victims of trafficking are trafficked to or through Slovenia mainly from Eastern Europe and more recently from Central and South America (Ukraine, Slovakia, Dominican Republic and Colombia) and Southeastern Europe (Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, former Yugoslav republics). Traffickers primarily target young women to traffic for sexual exploitation. A very small number of persons are trafficked from Slovenia to Western Europe. (NOTE: There have been no reported cases over the past two years; however we feel it would be premature to remove this part of the response. END

NOTE.) During the reporting period there was one reported case of a trafficking victim of Slovenian origin who was trafficked within Slovenia's borders.

¶10. (U) Trafficking does not appear to have increased nor decreased significantly since the last report. Sources and destinations of trafficking victims appear to follow patterns similar to past reporting.

¶11. (U) In Slovenia, as in past years, there are still several (number varies depending on the season) bars and nightclubs located primarily along the Adriatic coast and Italian border that employ up to 1000 women and teenage girls as "artistic dancers." Owners of the bars and pimps, however, do not now always use the facade of the bar to conduct business. They have begun providing apartments for the women and allowing them to operate as call girls using advertisements in local papers and magazines. Additionally, a few trafficking victims have reportedly been brought into Slovenia for forced labor purposes, primarily for street-begging schemes and for work in the construction industry. (NOTE: During the reporting period, only one case of forced labor (for street-begging) was reported. END NOTE.)

¶12. (U) Transiting of trafficking victims is primarily carried out by large international crime syndicates moving victims through the Balkans into Western Europe. Smaller crime organizations or family-based crime groups are suspected of trafficking some victims into Slovenia for sexual and labor exploitation. Victims are often lured by promises of employment and a better life presented by agents of organized crime syndicates or groups. Although some trafficking victims are smuggled to, through, or from Slovenia hidden in vehicles, most victims within Slovenia arrived by legal means, such as work permits, tourist visas, or visa-free travel.

-- C. Which government agencies are involved in anti-trafficking efforts and which agency, if any, has the lead?

¶13. (U) In December 2003, Slovenia established the Interdepartmental Working Group for Fighting TIP (IWG), involving many governmental agencies. The Ministries of Interior, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Health, Labor Family and Social Affairs, Defense, and Education are part of the IWG. The Group also includes representatives from Slovenian NGOs. Additionally, the GOS Statistical Office, the GOS Office for Public Relations and Media, the GOS Equal Opportunity Office, certain Parliamentary committees, and the Office of the Prime Minister are all involved in anti-trafficking efforts. The Ministry of Interior, through the National Coordinator for Trafficking in Human Beings, takes the lead in the IWG.

¶14. (U) D. What are the limitations on the government's ability to address this problem in practice? For example, is funding for police or other institutions inadequate? Is overall corruption a problem? Does the government lack the resources to aid victims?

¶15. (U) There are no limitations. The government devotes extensive resources to prevention, protection, and prosecution of TIP. Post is not aware of any government corruption related to TIP.

¶16. (U) E. To what extent does the government systematically monitor its anti-trafficking efforts (on all fronts -- prosecution, victim protection, and prevention) and periodically make available, publicly or privately and directly or through regional/international organizations, its assessments of these anti-trafficking efforts?

¶17. (U) The IWG, which includes members from different ministries, parliament, NGOs, and media, coordinates all government and non-government activities in an effort to combat TIP. The IWG meets regularly during the year. In 2007 it met five times as a full body, and several times in sub-groups. The IWG publishes and disseminates an annual

report that details all its anti-trafficking efforts for each calendar year, usually in March.

INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS:

¶18. (U) For questions A-D, posts should highlight in particular whether or not the country has enacted any new legislation since the last TIP report.

¶19. (U) A. Does the country have a law specifically prohibiting trafficking in persons--both for sexual and non-sexual purposes (e.g. forced labor)? If so, please specifically cite the name of the law and its date of enactment and provide the exact language of the law prohibiting TIP and all other law(s) used to prosecute TIP cases. Does the law(s) cover both internal and external (transnational) forms of trafficking? If not, under what other laws can traffickers be prosecuted? For example, are there laws against slavery or the exploitation of prostitution by means of force, fraud or coercion? Are these other laws being used in trafficking cases? Please provide a full inventory of trafficking laws, including non-criminal statutes that allow for civil penalties against alleged trafficking crimes, (e.g., civil forfeiture laws and laws against illegal debt).

20 (U) Yes. Trafficking in human beings has been defined as a criminal offense in the Penal code and is defined in Chapter 19 "Criminal Acts against sexual integrity," Article 311 - "Unlawful Crossing of the State border or State Territory," Article 387 - "Enslavement," and Article 387(a) - "Trafficking in Human Beings." Chapter 22 of the Penal Code, "Criminal Acts against Employment and Social Security," describes six criminal acts relating to illicit employment practices and prescribes sentences ranging from a fine to one year imprisonment. Article 387(a) was adopted in July 2004. Chapters 19 and 22 and Articles 311 and 387 were part of the Slovene Penal code passed in 1994, an act which codified legislation of the former Yugoslav Republic into Slovenian law.

¶21. (U) In 2006, Parliament passed changes to the Law on Criminal Procedure that broaden the rule according to which minors must have a legal representative to protect their rights. These changes are also reflected in the criminal act under article 387a of the Penal Code (Trafficking in Human Beings).

¶22. (U) B. What are the prescribed penalties for trafficking of people for sexual exploitation? What penalties were imposed for persons convicted of sexual exploitation over the reporting period? Please note the number of convicted sex traffickers who received suspended sentences and the number who received only a fine as punishment.

¶23. (U) Sentences can range from one to ten years, depending on the criminal offense. In September 2007, two Slovenes were convicted for trafficking in persons and abuse of prostitution. One of the convicted Slovenes is serving a sentence of four years and nine months, while the other was convicted of assisting in the offenses and was given probation. Also in September 2007, two Slovaks were convicted for trafficking in persons and abuse of prostitution and each received a sentence of one year and three months.

¶24. (U) C. Punishment of Labor Trafficking Offenses: What are the prescribed and imposed penalties for trafficking for labor exploitation, such as forced or bonded labor and involuntary servitude? Do the government's laws provide for criminal punishment -- i.e. jail time -- for labor recruiters in labor source countries who engage in recruitment of laborers using knowingly fraudulent or deceptive offers that result in workers being trafficked in the destination country? Are there laws in destination countries punishing employers or labor agents in labor destination countries who confiscate workers' passports or travel documents, switch

contracts without the worker's consent as a means to keep the worker in a state of service, or withhold payment of salaries as means of keeping the worker in a state of service? If law(s) prescribe criminal punishments for these offenses, what are the actual punishments imposed on persons convicted of these offenses? Please note the number of convicted labor traffickers who received suspended sentences and the number who received only a fine as punishment.

¶25. (U) Chapter 22 of the Slovene Penal Code, "Criminal Acts against Employment and Social Security," describes six criminal acts relating to illicit employment practices and prescribes sentences ranging from a fine to one year imprisonment. Prosecutors have also brought charges against labor exploiters under Article 311 - "Unlawful Crossing of the State border or State Territory," Article 387 - "Enslavement," and Article 387(a) "Trafficking in Human Beings." In January 2008, a Slovakian citizen was convicted under Article 387(a) for forcing three disabled men to beg on the streets of Ljubljana. He received a sentence of three years and six months.

¶26. (U) D. What are the prescribed penalties for rape or forcible sexual assault? How do they compare to the prescribed penalties for crimes of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation?

¶27. (U) Like penalties for crimes of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, penalties for rape or forcible sexual assault are one to ten years' imprisonment, depending on the circumstances.

¶28. (U) E. Is prostitution legalized or decriminalized? Specifically, are the activities of the prostitute criminalized? Are the activities of the brothel owner/operator, clients, pimps, and enforcers criminalized? Are these laws enforced? If prostitution is legal and regulated, what is the legal minimum age for this activity? Note that in many countries with federalist systems, prostitution laws may be under state or local jurisdiction and may differ among jurisdictions.

¶29. (U) Prostitution is decriminalized. Specifically, activities of prostitutes are decriminalized. Activities of brothel owner/operator, clients, pimps and enforcers are criminalized under the Penal Code. These laws are enforced by the appropriate authorities.

¶30. (U) F. Has the government prosecuted any cases against human trafficking offenders? If so, provide numbers of investigations, prosecutions, convictions, and sentences served, including details on plea bargains and fines, if relevant and available. Please indicate which laws were used to investigate, prosecute, convict, and sentence traffickers. Also, if possible, please disaggregate by type of TIP (labor vs. commercial sexual exploitation) and victims (children, as defined by U.S. and international law as under 18 years of age, vs. adults). Does the government in a labor source country criminally prosecute labor recruiters who recruit laborers using knowingly fraudulent or deceptive offers or impose on recruited laborers inappropriately high or illegal fees or commissions that create a debt bondage condition for the laborer? Does the government in a labor destination country criminally prosecute employers or labor agents who confiscate workers' passports/travel documents, switch contracts or terms of employment without the worker's consent, use physical or sexual abuse or the threat of such abuse to keep workers in a state of service, or withhold payment of salaries as a means to keep workers in a state of service? Are the traffickers serving the time sentenced? If not, why not? Please indicate whether the government can provide this information, and if not, why not?

¶31. (U) Yes. During 2007, Slovenian Police carried out six investigations of TIP-related crimes. These investigations resulted in prosecutors filing indictments against four suspects. Under Article 387a, prosecutors filed a criminal indictment against a suspect for trafficking in persons.

Under Article 387, prosecutors filed an indictment against a suspect for forced slavery. Under Article 185, prosecutors filed an indictment against a suspect for abuse of prostitution. Prosecutors filed an indictment against another suspect under both Article 387 and Article 185. All four indictments are awaiting prosecution. In 2007, Slovenian Police launched two other investigations into TIP-related criminal acts which are ongoing.

132. (U) Separately, prosecutors successfully prosecuted three cases, resulting in the convictions of five people. In September 2007, two Slovenes were convicted for trafficking in persons and abuse of prostitution. One of the convicted Slovenes is serving a sentence of four years and nine months, while the other was convicted of assisting in the offenses and was given probation. Also in September, two Slovaks were convicted for trafficking in persons and abuse of prostitution and each received a sentence of one year and three months. As mentioned above, another Slovak was convicted in January 2008 for trafficking in persons and received a sentence of three years and six months.

133. (U) G. Does the government provide any specialized training for government officials in how to recognize, investigate, and prosecute instances of trafficking? Specify whether NGOs, international organizations, and/or the USG provide specialized training for host government officials.

134. (U) Yes. In 2007 the government continued with established training programs provided by Slovenian NGOs, together with the Police, Prosecution, and the Faculty of Social Work of the University of Ljubljana. The Slovenian Police Directorate's annual training program, which was built upon training provided by NGO Kljuc in past years, provided eight training courses in 2007, resulting in TIP training for 165 police officers. In conjunction with their Croatian counterparts, the Slovenian Police held a special seminar in March 2007 that focused, in part, upon TIP. NGOs Kljuc and Karitas assisted in the seminar by providing case studies and simulations. With excellent cooperation from the GOS State Prosecutor's office and the Association of Slovenian Judges, Embassy Ljubljana sponsored a seminar on the role of the judiciary and cooperation with prosecutors on TIP in March 2007. This was the second event on TIP in which judges participated in less than six months, indicating an increased awareness of TIP and appreciation for the importance of prosecuting these cases. In 2007 GOS representatives participated in conferences sponsored by the OSCE, CoE, EU and IOM.

135. (U) Other government agencies also carried out TIP-related training programs. In September 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a three-day training for consular personnel of Slovene Embassies that included TIP training. In October 2007, the Ministry of Justice provided TIP and other human rights training to new employees at the Ministry of Defense. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Defense jointly funded a comprehensive training session in October 2007 for Slovenian troops being deployed to peacekeeping missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo. It is expected that TIP training for Slovenian troops will become institutionalized. The Ministry of Interior provided special training for the new rotation of policemen participating in the UN Mission in Kosovo.

136. (U) H. Does the government cooperate with other governments in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases? If possible, can post provide the number of cooperative international investigations on trafficking during the reporting period?

37, (U) The government's high level of activity in the Stability Pact, the OSCE, CoE, Interpol, Europol, SECI Center in Bucharest, UNDP and ICMPD indicates a willingness to cooperate with other governments and international organizations, but to date no joint investigations or prosecutions of trafficking cases have occurred.

38, (U) Slovene police actively participate in the Interpol Working Group that fights against the "Trafficking of Women and Children for Sex Exploitation." The group also actively cooperated on the project, "Red Routes," which focused on sharing data and methods and procedures on investigations. Slovene Police established a special line of cooperation with EUROPOL to take advantage of its anti-trafficking database "Maritsa." This was particularly useful for joint effort on cases involving migration of trafficking victims from eastern to western Europe. Slovenia continued to be active in the ILAEIRA project, which promotes trans-border police cooperation to fight TIP in the Balkans.

39 (U) I. Does the government extradite persons who are charged with trafficking in other countries? If so, can post provide the number of traffickers extradited during the reporting period? Does the government extradite its own nationals charged with such offenses? If not, is the government prohibited by law from extraditing its own nationals? If so, what is the government doing to modify its laws to permit the extradition of its own nationals?

40. (U) In principle, yes. However, we are unaware of any requests for extradition in the current reporting period.

41. (U) J. Is there evidence of government involvement in or tolerance of trafficking, on a local or institutional level? If so, please explain in detail.

42. (U) Post is not aware of government officials being involved in or tolerant of trafficking.

43. (U) K. If government officials are involved in trafficking, what steps has the government taken to end such participation? Please indicate the number of government officials investigated and prosecuted for involvement in trafficking or trafficking-related corruption during the reporting period. Have any been convicted? What sentence(s) was imposed? Please specify if officials received suspended sentences, were given a fine, fired, or reassigned to another position within the government as punishment. Please provide specific numbers, if available. Please indicate the number of convicted officials that received suspended sentences or received only a fine as punishment.

44. (U) N/A

45. (U) L. As part of the new requirements of the 2005 TVPRA, for countries that contribute troops to international peacekeeping efforts, please indicate whether the government vigorously investigated, prosecuted, convicted and sentenced nationals of the country deployed abroad as part of a peacekeeping or other similar mission who engage in or facilitate severe forms of trafficking or who exploit victims of such trafficking.

46. (U) There were no reports of Slovenian troops involved in any trafficking cases.

47. (U) M. If the country has an identified child sex tourism problem (as source or destination), how many foreign pedophiles has the government prosecuted or deported/extradited to their country of origin? What are the countries of origin for sex tourists? Do the country's child sexual abuse laws have extraterritorial coverage (similar to the U.S. PROTECT Act)? If so, how many of the country's nationals have been prosecuted and/or convicted under the extraterritorial provision(s) for traveling to other countries to engage in child sex tourism?

48. (U) Slovenia does not have an identified child sex tourism problem and there have been no reports of Slovenian citizens being involved in child sex tourism abroad.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS:

49. (U) A. Does the government assist foreign trafficking victims, for example, by providing temporary to permanent

residency status, or other relief from deportation? If so, please explain.

¶50. (U) Yes. The Ministry of Interior arranges temporary residence permits for three months for all trafficking victims, and longer for victims willing to cooperate in investigations and prosecutions of perpetrators.

¶51. (U) B. Does the country have victim care facilities which are accessible to trafficking victims? Do foreign victims have the same access to care as domestic trafficking victims? Does the country have specialized facilities dedicated to helping victims of trafficking? If so, can post provide the number of victims placed in these care facilities during the reporting period? What is the funding source of these facilities? Please estimate the amount the government spent (in U.S. dollar equivalent) on these specialized facilities dedicated to helping trafficking victims during the reporting period. Does the government provide trafficking victims with access to legal, medical and psychological services? If so, please specify the kind of assistance provided, and the number of victims assisted, if available.

¶52. (U) Yes. The government finances two NGO projects for victim care facilities. The Ministry of Interior issued a EUR 35,000 (\$52,000) grant to NGO Kljuc to run a safe house to provide short-term, emergency shelter for trafficking victims. The Ministry of Labor, Family, and Social Affairs gave a EUR 33,000 (\$49,500) grant to NGO Karitas to operate a safe house to provide shelter for victims for longer periods. Additional funding for the long-term safe house was provided by the City of Ljubljana. Both NGOs also provide counseling, legal advice, and medical and psychosocial assistance to victims. In early 2008, both Kljuc and Karitas were awarded two-year contracts to continue their trafficking victims assistance work. Together, the NGOs provided assistance to approximately 26 trafficking victims. Foreign victims have the same access to care as domestic trafficking victims.

¶53. (U) C. Does the government provide funding or other forms of support to foreign or domestic NGOs and/or international organizations for services to trafficking victims? Please explain and provide any funding amounts in U.S. dollar equivalent. If assistance provided is in-kind, please specify exact assistance. Please explain if funding for assistance comes from a federal budget or from regional or local governments.

¶54. (U) Yes. In addition to the programs mentioned above in (B), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided EUR 20,800 (\$31,200) for the Project Against Trafficking and Sex and Gender Based Violence (PATS). The project is jointly administered by the Asylum Section of the Ministry of Interior of the GOS and NGO Kljuc and is the primary program for providing information and assistance to trafficking victims. The objectives of this program are to introduce formalized mechanisms to provide information to those asylum-seekers most at risk of falling prey to human traffickers and to assist and protect victims of human trafficking and gender based violence. In the framework of this project, Kljuc led informational discussions with the residents of the Asylum Center in Ljubljana. In 2007, PATS expanded its mechanisms for recognizing, assisting and protecting victims of trafficking in human beings into Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

¶55. (U) D. Do the government's law enforcement, immigration, and social services personnel have a formal system of proactively identifying victims of trafficking among high-risk persons with whom they come in contact (e.g., foreign persons arrested for prostitution or immigration violations)? What is the number of victims identified during the reporting period? Has the government developed and implemented a referral process to transfer victims detained, arrested or placed in protective custody by law enforcement authorities to institutions that provide short- or long-term care? How many victims were referred for

assistance by law enforcement authorities during the reporting period?

¶56. (U) Yes, the government has established an identification and referral system for potential victims of trafficking. Train-the-trainer programs carried out by NGOs and the Police have increased the numbers of law enforcement and immigration authorities who can identify trafficking victims. In the reporting period, the Slovenian Police identified four potential victims of trafficking and referred all four to Slovenian NGOs for assistance.

¶57. (U) E. For countries with legalized prostitution: does the government have a mechanism for screening for trafficking victims among persons involved in the legal/regulated commercial sex trade?

¶58. (U) N/A. Although the activities of prostitutes are decriminalized, the activities of brothel owners/operators, clients, pimps and enforcers are criminalized under the Penal Code.

¶59. (U) F. Are the rights of victims respected? Are trafficking victims detained or jailed? If detained or jailed, for how long? Are victims fined? Are victims prosecuted for violations of other laws, such as those governing immigration or prostitution?

¶60. (U) The rights of victims are respected. Victims are not treated as criminals and Kljuc and the Police Administration work cooperatively to assist victims. Victims are not detained or jailed, but are referred to NGOs for protection and assistance.

¶61. (U) G. Does the government encourage victims to assist in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking? How many victims assisted in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers during the reporting period? May victims file civil suits or seek legal action against traffickers? Does anyone impede victim access to such legal redress? If a victim is a material witness in a court case against a former employer, is the victim permitted to obtain other employment or to leave the country pending trial proceedings? Are there means by which a victim may obtain restitution?

¶62. (U) Yes, the government encourages victims to assist in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking. A memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Interior and NGO Kljuc specifically provides for further extensions of residency status for victims participating in the prosecution of traffickers. Eight victims assisted or are assisting in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers. Victims may file civil suit or seek legal action against traffickers without any impediments. Material witnesses are allowed to obtain other employment or to leave the country. Victims may seek restitution through civil suits against traffickers, although we are not aware of any such case being brought to court by victims.

¶63. (U) H. What kind of protection is the government able to provide for victims and witnesses? Does it provide these protections in practice? What type of shelter or services does the government provide? Are these services provided directly by the government or are they provided by NGOs or IOs funded by host government grants? Does the government provide shelter or housing benefits to victims or other resources to aid the victims in rebuilding their lives? Where are child victims placed (e.g., in shelters, foster care, or juvenile justice detention centers)? What is the number of victims assisted by government-funded assistance programs during the reporting period? What is the number of victims assisted by non government-funded assistance programs? What is the number of victims that received shelter services during the reporting period?

¶64. (U) Witness protection is nearly impossible in Slovenia, with its small (less than 2 million) and mostly homogenous (90% ethnic Slovene) population living almost entirely in

small towns and villages.

¶65. (U) Parliament adopted a "Law on Witness Protection" in November 2005. This law generally provides for the protection of witnesses through temporary relocation of protected witness, new identity, and international exchange of witnesses on the basis of bilateral agreements. The GOS is now looking at possible witness protection programs in the wider EU context as a potential solution to the problems posed by the size and homogeneity of Slovenia.

¶66. (U) As mentioned in section (B) of this chapter, NGOs provide, with government funding, crisis shelter and safe housing to victims. To date, the GOS and NGOs have not identified any child victims of trafficking, however they have provided shelter and assistance to children of trafficking victims. The NGO Slovene Philanthropy has plans and resources to provide guardianship for children separated from their parents and who are identified as victims of trafficking. During the reporting period, government-funded assistance programs assisted 26 trafficking victims. Approximately half of these victims received shelter services.

¶67. (U) I. Does the government provide any specialized training for government officials in identifying trafficking victims and in the provision of assistance to trafficked victims, including the special needs of trafficked children? Does the government provide training on protections and assistance to its embassies and consulates in foreign countries that are destination or transit countries? Does it urge those embassies and consulates to develop ongoing relationships with NGOs and IOs that serve trafficked victims? What is the number of trafficking victims assisted by the host country's embassies or consulates abroad during the reporting period? Please explain the level of assistance. For example, did the host government provide travel documents for the victim to repatriate, did the host government contact NGOs in either the source or destination countries to ensure the victim received adequate assistance, did the host government pay for the transportation home for a victim's repatriation, etc.

¶68. (U) Yes. See section (C) under Prevention. Additionally, many of the "multiplier" programs funded in the past are now the primary source of anti-trafficking training within the police force. Also see section (B), under Prevention, for information on safe houses provided for trafficking victims, which includes shelter for children.

¶69. (U) Despite the very limited presence, in both size and number, of Slovenian diplomatic missions abroad, the government provided training to MFA officials serving at Slovenian embassies to identify and advise suspected victims of trafficking. The government also began work on updating information pamphlets for potential trafficking victims for distribution at Slovenian embassies.

¶70. (U) The government provides travel documents and financial assistance for victims to return to their countries of origin. Reintegration programs run by Slovenian NGOs, with financial support from the government, include repatriation assistance to victims and the establishment of contact and assistance via NGOs in the victims' countries of origin.

¶71. (U) J. Does the government provide assistance, such as medical aid, shelter, or financial help, to its nationals who are repatriated as victims of trafficking?

¶72. (U) Because the numbers are so small, there are no specific governmental programs for Slovenian victims. The NGOs Kljuc and Karitas work with other local NGOs to help repatriated victims take advantage of the extensive network of regular government-provided social services.

¶73. (U) K. Which international organizations or NGOs, if any, work with trafficking victims? What type of services do they provide? What sort of cooperation do they receive from local

authorities? How much funding (in U.S. Dollar Equivalent) did NGOs and international organizations receive from the host government for victim assistance during the reporting period? Please disaggregate funding for prevention and public awareness efforts from victim assistance funding. NOTE: If post reports that a government is incapable of providing direct assistance to TIP victims, please assess whether the government ensures that TIP victims receive access to adequate care from other entities. Funding, personnel, and training constraints should be noted, if applicable. Conversely, the lack of political will in a situation where a country has adequate financial and other resources to address the problem should be noted as well.

174. (U) In 2007, the GOS awarded funding for victim protection to NGOs Kljuc and Karitas, who received EUR 35,000 (\$52,000) and EUR 33,000 (\$49,500) respectively for two victim protection contracts. In early 2008, the GOS concluded two-year contracts with Kljuc and Karitas to provide victim assistance and care from 2008 to 2009. Kljuc received a EUR 74,000 (\$111,000) contract from the Ministry of Interior to provide safe-house accommodation for trafficking victims. Karitas received a EUR 70,000 (\$105,000) contract from the Ministry of Labor to provide short-term housing for victims.

PREVENTION:

175. (U) A. Does the government acknowledge that trafficking is a problem in the country? If not, why not?

176. (U) Yes.

177. (U) B. Are there, or have there been, government-run anti- trafficking information or education campaigns conducted during the reporting period? If so, briefly describe the campaign(s), including their objectives and effectiveness. Please provide the number of people reached by such awareness efforts if available. Do these campaigns target potential trafficking victims and/or the demand for trafficking (e.g. "clients" of prostitutes or beneficiaries of forced labor)?

178. (U) Yes, there are government-run anti-trafficking information and education campaigns. They are generally conducted in partnership with local NGOs and/or international organizations. GOS programs for increasing awareness include the ongoing project "Vijolica," which NGO Kljuc has conducted for the last several years in elementary and secondary schools around Slovenia. The project is aimed at raising awareness of trafficking among children. In 2007, it reached 400 students, their parents, teachers, and other school personnel. CAP, a program for prevention of abuse of children, has been in operation in Slovenia since 1994; it involved numerous workshops this year and addressed approximately 250 children, their parents, teachers, and other school personnel. NGO Kljuc administered both programs. The Ministry of Labor sponsors CAP, and the City of Ljubljana sponsors Vijolica.

179. (U) With government sponsorship, Kljuc ran a radio campaign on TIP that featured simulations of trafficking victims calling the Kljuc hotline for TIP to encourage victims to reach out for help. The GOS also continued to sponsor and maintain a web page (portal) with information regarding the problem of trafficking.

180. (U) The NGOs Kljuc and Karitas continued to run, with Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs sponsorship, a three-year project "(Re)integration of victims of TIP." The NGOs assisted foreign victims by providing psychosocial counseling, legal assistance (including repatriation processes), transportation to countries of origin, and contact with NGOs in countries of origin. Assistance to Slovenian victims included psychosocial counseling and employment, education, and housing assistance.

181. (U) Beginning in September 2007, the Ministry of

Education introduced the theme of "Trafficking in Human Beings" into the standard Slovenian primary school curriculum, thereby bringing awareness of TIP to hundreds of thousands of school children. In October 2007, the NGO Karitas carried out three seminars to educate the public about TIP and to discuss how government and society are addressing the problem. In November 2007, the U.S. Embassy funded a one-day seminar on TIP at the University of Ljubljana Faculty of Defense Studies. Representatives of NGOs and the Embassy spoke to university students about TIP.

¶82. (U) Other anti-trafficking information programs included the Government Office for Communication-financed production of a logo and slogan "Act against Trafficking in Human Beings" to promote recognition of government programs for fighting TIP.

¶83. (U) In July 2007, the Government Office for Religious Communities organized a one-day TIP seminar for representatives from all religious communities in Slovenia.

¶84. (U) Also see section (C) under Protection and Assistance for further information on the joint government and NGO project PATS.

¶85. (U) C. What is the relationship between government officials, NGOs, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society on the trafficking issue?

86 (U) In general, cooperation is excellent. Government officials and activists work as equal partners in the Interdepartmental Working Group to assess progress and develop policy recommendations and collaborate on training and education efforts.

¶87. (U) D. Does the government monitor immigration and emigration patterns for evidence of trafficking? Do law enforcement agencies screen for potential trafficking victims along borders?

¶88. (U) Yes, monitoring occurs and law enforcement agencies screen for potential trafficking victims along borders. However, in some cases, victims are not yet aware they are being trafficked when they are passing through Slovenia. This makes it more difficult to identify potential victims.

¶89. (U) The National Institute for Employment runs statistical data on foreign citizens employed in Slovenia. The Institute pays special attention to the issuance of work permits for so called "risky professions," i.e., exotic dancers, show girls, construction workers and work permits for Chinese citizens, all of which Slovenia considers to be target categories for traffickers.

¶90. (U) E. Is there a mechanism for coordination and communication between various agencies, internal, international, and multilateral on trafficking-related matters, such as a multi-agency working group or a task force? Does the government have a trafficking in persons working group or single point of contact? Does the government have a public corruption task force?

¶91. (U) Yes, the Interdepartmental Working Group is the mechanism for coordination and communication between various agencies. In addition, Slovenia has an Independent Commission for the Prevention of Corruption. The government is particularly active in the Stability Pact, the OSCE, CoE, Interpol, Europol, SECI Center in Bucharest, UNDP and ICMPD. Slovene police actively participate in the Interpol Working Group that fights against the Trafficking of Women and Children for Sex Exploitation.

¶92. (U) F. Does the government have a national plan of action to address trafficking in persons? If so, which agencies were involved in developing it? Were NGOs consulted in the process? What steps has the government taken to disseminate the action plan?

¶93. (U) Yes, Slovenia has a National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The Ministries of Interior, Justice, Foreign Affairs, Health, Labor Family and Social Affairs, and Defense are part of the Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG) that developed the plan. NGOS are also included in the Group. Cooperation is excellent. Government officials and activists work as equal partners on the IWG to develop the national plan. On July 12, the government adopted the IWG's proposed two-year action plan for 2008 - 2009. The Interdepartmental Working Group disseminates the National Action Plans to all government agencies, NGOs and other civil society activists, and publishes the plans in print and on the government's official web site.

¶94. (U) G: For all posts: As part of the new criteria added to the TVPA's minimum standards by the 2005 TVPRA, what measures has the government taken during the reporting period to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts? (see ref B, para. 9(3) for examples)

¶95. (U) To date, the government has not taken any measures to curb the demand for commercial sex acts. The National Coordinator for the IWG has stated the IWG intends to address this issue in 2008.

¶96. (U) H. Required of Posts in EU countries and posts in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong: As part of the new criteria added to the TVPA's minimum standards by the 2005 TVPRA, what measures has the government taken during the reporting period to reduce the participation in international child sex tourism by nationals of the country?

¶97. (U) There are no reported cases of Slovenian nationals participating in international child sex tourism. The government has not taken measures to reduce participation by Slovenian nationals, but the National Coordinator for the IWG has stated he hopes to raise awareness about international child sex tourism in 2008.

¶98. (U) I. Required of posts in countries that have contributed over 100 troops to international peacekeeping efforts: What measures has the government adopted to ensure that its nationals who are deployed abroad as part of a peacekeeping or other similar mission do not engage in or facilitate severe forms of trafficking or exploit victims of such trafficking?

¶99. (U) In October 2007, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Defense provided TIP training to Slovenian Armed Forces being deployed to peacekeeping missions in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

¶100. (U) In preparation of this report, Embassy officers and staff spent the following amount of time:

FS-2: 6 hours

FS-3: 40 hours

FS-3 (equivalent): 10 hours

LES: 40 hours

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